

# Weekly National Intelligencer.

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We extract from a letter of the Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Patriot, of the 9th instant, the annexed pleasing paragraph. The passage which intimates a change of views on the part of our Government in regard to the extent of the territory of Texas is not vouched for; but, anxious that our Government shall, by refraining from any invasion of the acknowledged territories of Mexico, give no additional cause of offence or of war to that Government; and, indeed, if it err at all, rather that it err on the side of moderation and forbearance towards a weak and already wronged people, we should be gratified if the surmise of the writer prove well founded. We hope, therefore, to find that the intelligent and generally well-informed correspondent of the Patriot had good ground for his intimation:

"Lieut. RINGOLD, of the Army, I am informed, left this city last night with important despatches for our army in Texas. It is stated that, such was the emergency of the case, the Bank of the Metropolis was opened at 10 o'clock P. M. for Government funds to enable the despatch-bearer to proceed forthwith. It is surmised that our Government has been too fast in ordering its troops into that region of Texas which lies between the rivers *Tuques* and *Rio del Norte*, and which has never yet been, and never could be, taken possession of by the Government and troops of Texas, and that these despatches are now posted off to the scene of attraction to restrain General Taylor and Colonel Twiggs from precipitating the forces under their command into that country, inhabited by forty-five thousand Mexicans who have never yet surrendered to or been conquered by the Texas."

In consequence of the late destructive fire at New York, Mr. WALKER, Secretary of the Treasury, has directed the Collector of New York to suspend the sale of such goods as may be now liable to be sold to realize the duties for a period of sixty days from the 1st of this month.

MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.—The posts of the line between New York and Philadelphia have been planned as far up as Union Square in the former city, and some considerable progress has been made in New Jersey. It is contemplated to have the line in operation within sixty days.

The Export of Domestic Cotton Goods from the Port of Boston for the month ending July 31, 1845, has been as follows:

Bales and Cases.	
To East Indies.....	645
Canada.....	216
Valparaiso.....	1,408
Rio Janeiro.....	493
Naples and Palermo.....	30
Sumatra.....	20
Smyrna.....	210
St. Thomas & Manzanillo.....	58
Panama.....	20
St. Petersburg.....	6
Hartford.....	40

Total for July.....	4,673
Same time last year.....	5,578
Total for two months.....	7,212
Same time last year.....	16,328

The exports this year to foreign ports have been 5,204 bales, and last year only 2,394 bales; while to domestic ports this year only 2,008 bales, and last year 14,134 bales.

This statement shows a very satisfactory increase in the exportation of our domestic manufactures to foreign countries. The diminution of shipments to domestic ports we have not the means at hand to account for. But of one thing we are certain; that, with our rapidly increasing population, and a diminished importation of the foreign-made opposing article, our home consumption of domestic manufactures must also rapidly increase. The above-mentioned diminution of shipments from Boston will, we have no doubt, be more than counterbalanced by operations elsewhere.

MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES.  
Nothing can illustrate more forcibly, perhaps, the difference between the Anglo-Saxon and the Spanish system of colonization, and races, than a comparison between the growth and population of the two countries named at the head of this paragraph.

In 1793 the population of Mexico was 5,270,000; in 1842 it was only 7,015,500.

In 1753 the population of the United States was 1,051,000; in 1810 it was 7,239,800; in 1840 it was 17,670,000.

Both countries have broken away from Colonial bondage—both had to endure a warring revolutionary war, and both are now independent. Yet with what difference of power, of happiness, and of freedom!

In Mexico it is believed there are fewer people who can read and write than there are in the United States who cannot. That single fact is full of significance.

PROGRESS OF CINCINNATI.  
From Cincin's Advertiser, an excellent weekly paper, devoted to statistical information principally, we take the following paragraph:

"I have registered the actual increase of buildings during the last twelve years, by which I refer to dwelling-houses, business offices, and store-houses and workshops alone, as follows:

1833.....	321	1839.....	394
1834.....	360	1840.....	405
1835.....	340	1841.....	406
1836.....	360	1842.....	452
1837.....	305	1843.....	1,003
1838.....	334	1844.....	1,228

"In 1830 thirty-five millions brick were made, as per census returns of that year. In 1844 this quantity was increased to eighty millions. The manufacture of 1845 will show no decrease. Let me call attention to the following list of public buildings now in the course of erection or finished off, which have all been commenced since January 1st, 1845, with the quantity of bricks they will consume:

Cincinnati College.....	1,000,000
Masonic Hall.....	600,000
Roman Catholic Church.....	600,000
Old Fellers' Hall.....	400,000
Central Presbyterian Church.....	395,000
Third do do.....	390,000
Seventh do do.....	400,000
Thermadoc do.....	400,000
Seven smaller churches.....	1,750,000
6,000,000	

Of private buildings, Niles Foundry alone will require 500,000, the block of stores at Loring's corner, and Walnut at least 500,000 more, and the block at the corner of Fourth and Walnut at least 500,000 more. The great aggregate of brick made in 1845, and not herein referred to.

INDIANA SINKING FUND.—The Commissioners of the Sinking Fund of Indiana have given notice that certain lots of land in a number of counties in that State, heretofore bid in for the State, under mortgages to the sinking fund, will be offered for sale on the 14th instant at the Court House, in Indianapolis, on a credit of five years, with interest at the rate of seven per cent., annually, in advance.

## MEXICO—RUMORS OF WAR.

The New Orleans papers received last night are filled with rumors of war, or some other hostile demonstration by Mexico against the United States, founded on letters and reports brought to New Orleans by the Mexican schooner *Relampago*, which sailed from Vera Cruz on the 23d ultimo.

"The *Jeffersonian* publishes a letter, dated at Vera Cruz on the 22d, which says: 'I have to conclude this letter in a hurry, as the news is just in town that war has been declared against the Americans, and the vessels are going off immediately to prevent being seized.'"

The *See* states, on the authority of a person who has it from an authentic source, that the Mexican Government has closed its ports to American commerce."

The *Courier* says: "We have seen letters from Mexico of July 22d, which say war was inevitable. The Senate of Mexico had assembled in order to discuss the question of peace or war, and the issue depended on their deliberations. Until the result was known the Mexican ports would continue open as usual to American trade."

We have before us a file of the paper called the *Vera Cruzano*, up to and including the 19th July, communicated to us by a friend. They contain not a word that looks like a probable rupture between the United States and Mexico."

The *Tropic* says: "The only rumor which appears at present to be well authenticated is one that the Mexican Consul has received orders from his Government to withdraw immediately from this country. What the exact nature of the Consul's instructions are we are not advised; but we are informed, on what we believe to be excellent authority, that that functionary will close his office to-morrow, and cease to exercise his duties. We cannot believe that Mexico has declared war, or intends to do so; she surely is not so infatuated; but from all we can learn we are inclined to the opinion that the Government of that Republic has come to the conclusion to stop all intercourse with the United States."

The *Picayune* states, positively, that "war against the United States had not been declared when the *Relampago* sailed. It was expected that the mail which arrived the previous day would bring the intelligence; but, if it did, it had not publicly transpired at Vera Cruz. That it must be declared, however, was the general opinion, and we learn verbally that the Government of Mexico is making strenuous exertions to borrow \$12,000,000 to carry it on."

The truth of all these rumors, however, we presume to be correctly stated in the annexed article, copied from the *Bulletin*:

"The latest advices from Vera Cruz furnish grounds for apprehending that the Mexican Congress have determined on the adoption of some measures of retaliation on the United States for the part we have taken in the annexation question. The probability seems to be that an embargo will be, if it has not already been, declared. The accounts from Mexico represent the ignorant rabble, who form the mass of the population, to be clamorous for war. From this fact, it is apparent that the Administration party, in order to court popularity, will be forced to make some demonstration of hostility towards this country." [What a true picture of the state of things in our own country—indeed, in all countries!] As the interdiction of commerce, by the declaration of an embargo, commensurate to a state of hostility, without amounting exactly to an open act of war, it is altogether probable that this will be the first step in the progress to belligerency. It is also a kind of passive warfare, better suited to the exhaustion and imbecility of Mexico, than more active and vindictive demonstrations of enmity, requiring the movement of armies in the field and fleets upon the sea. It is hardly possible to suppose that any serious intention of prosecuting war can be entertained by the Mexican Government. The total want of all the sinews of war, and the entire destitution of the resources and capabilities necessary for a state of belligerency, forbid the idea. Whatever measures may be adopted, therefore, by Mexico, indicative of a hostile purpose, may well be regarded only as idle demonstrations, designed to gratify a clamorous and discontented populace. Without some bluster and bravado, it would not be possible for the party in power to maintain the ascendancy during the pending elections. A movement of the kind, then, may well be expected. A total interdiction of all commercial intercourse with the United States will probably take place. But that Mexico will venture seriously to declare war, we cannot be persuaded to believe. When such an event does occur, if ever, the destiny of a doomed nation will be shadowed forth in the line of the Latin Poet:

"*Quem Deus vult perdere, prius dementat.*"

Among the passengers in the *Relampago* was a bearer of despatches for this Government from the American Consul at Vera Cruz.

There were one Spanish, one French, and two English men-of-war at Vera Cruz on the 23d ultimo, but no American. The two Mexican war steamers were lying in the harbor.

We may expect later news from Mexico in a day or two, as the schooner *Waterwitch* was to sail from Vera Cruz on the 26th ultimo.

The *New Orleans Courier* says: "We have heard that General TAYLOR, who commands the American troops on the Nueces, has determined to take possession of a small fort, constructed by the Mexicans on the eastern bank of the Rio Grande, and to send the garrison to the other side of that river."

NAVAL.—The United States frigate *Potomac*, ship *Saratoga*, and brig *Lawrence* sailed from Pensacola on Tuesday, the 29th ultimo, on a cruise in the Gulf of Mexico—leaving at Pensacola only the brig *Somers*, which was to sail early in the following week.

ARREST OF THIEVES.—Our readers will recollect the fact of the Poughkeepsie large Clinton having been robbed a few months since of the immense sum of \$34,000, a portion of which belonged to one of the Poughkeepsie banks, and another to one of our Wall Street banks. For a long time no trace of the money or the thieves could be had, although it was known that many of the old and intelligent police officers that old heads had been at work, and that they knew well enough how to keep still for a time. Certain parties were at once suspected, and a close watch was kept upon them by different parties, but until within a few days nothing could be got hold of to confirm the suspicions. The whole party are now, however, arrested charged with this extensive robbery, and some portion of the money has been recovered. Several of them are well known. One of them is James Smith, alias Hummel, the notorious City Bank robber; another is Parkins, who was concerned with Smith, and in whose shop a portion of the City Bank money was found secreted; another is James Miller, better known as *Cupid*, a notorious pickpocket, and the fourth gives his name as Brennan.—*New York News.*

## SEVEN DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

The mammoth steamer *Great Britain*, Captain HOSKINS, arrived safely at New York on Sunday, in fifteen days from Liverpool, whence she sailed on the 26th ultimo—thus satisfactorily solving the problem whether or not a steamer of the magnitude and construction of the *Great Britain*, and with her principle of propulsion, could make a successful trip across the ocean. The engines worked admirably all the way, and were never stopped except to sound on George's Bank, off Sandy Hook, at one o'clock P. M. on Sunday.

The news, though not exciting, is favorable. Cotton holds its price, with large sales, and there was a general conviction that the lowest point had been reached, and henceforth the change, if any, would be in favor of the sellers. Provisions too were firm, and there were some expectations of scarcity and an advance.

Earl Grey, father of the Reform Act, and for four years Prime Minister, died at his residence, Hewick Hall, on the 17th, aged 81.

In Parliament there have been no proceedings of interest. Mr. EWART moved a repeal of the duties on butter and cheese, which was resisted by Sir ROBERT PEEL, and defeated. A debate on New Zealand has been had, but led to no result. A bill to enable the Jews to hold certain offices will probably pass.

Mr. O'CONNELL was about to retire to Derrynane, where he proposes to occupy himself during the recess of Parliament with details of various measures for carrying out his views. The state of Ireland is represented to be serious, not to say alarming. The poverty of the country was making it superior to the law, and all O'Connell's influence could not keep the people quiet.

The French Chamber of Deputies was prorogued on the 21st. It was believed that a dissolution would shortly afterwards take place. The King and royal family were to leave Paris the next week for the Chateau de Eu, where they were expected to remain six or eight weeks. The *Constitutionnel* states that it is not improbable a general election will take place in the month of November. On the 23d, Marshal SOULT, rebuked by M. DE BOISSY for severity to the army in Algiers, took occasion to palliate the abominable massacre at Dahra. "It would," he said, "have been atrocious in Europe, but such things are necessary in Africa; and the exterminated tribe had committed cruelties on French soldiers." The French papers loudly reprove their indignant protest on this extension of the atrocity.

Madrid papers of the 14th state that the decree against the press has roused some opposition even among the supporters of the Ministry. Smyrna, in Turkey, was visited with a very destructive conflagration on the 3d of July, which broke out in the centre of the town, "destroying every thing right and left for the circumference of more than a mile."

The accounts from India and China by the last overland mail present nothing striking, if we except a trifling *émigree* in the streets of Canton, between a party of Englishmen, amongst them Mr. JACKSON, the British Vice Consul. Such collisions appear to be occasionally inevitable with a people so morbidly jealous of strangers as are the Chinese. The King of Holland arrived in London on the 24th ultimo, to her Majesty and Prince Albert on the 24th ultimo.

FREDERICK BREMER, the popular author, is about visiting the United States. American securities continue to look up. The *European Times* of the 26th ultimo says: "Our report of the London market for American securities continues favorable. We make the following quotations since our publication of the 19th:

Louisiana 5 per cents.....	80
New York 5.....	90 ex div.
Ohio.....	85
Pennsylvania.....	70 1/2
United States Bank.....	28 2/4

NEW ZEALAND.—In the House of Commons, on the 21st ultimo, on the motion for going into committee of supply, Mr. CHARLES BULLER drew attention to the present state of New Zealand. He recounted the events connected with the destruction of Kororarua, in the Bay of Islands, awarded him his due of praise for the chivalrous conduct he had exhibited in his warfare, and pictured the dangerous condition of the settlers from the excited feelings of the natives, flushed by the plunder (upwards of £40,000) they had acquired, and animated by their easy victory. The settlement of Wellington, with from 4,000 to 5,000 colonists, who had taken on with their property to the extent of £2,000,000, was surrounded by at least 8,000 natives, who were kept in check by only fifty soldiers—the rest being drawn off to protect Auckland. He threw the responsibility of this state of things on the Government; for Lord Stanley had brought about that calamity—a war of races. It was no satisfaction that Capt. Fitzroy was recalled, unless they had the positive assurance of a change of system. He concluded by moving "that this House regards with regret and apprehension the state of affairs in New Zealand; and that those feelings are greatly aggravated by the want of any sufficient evidence of a change in the policy, which has led to such disastrous results."

The House divided on Mr. C. Buller's motion, which was defeated by a majority of 155 to 89.

CONFLAGRATION AT SMYRNA.—The following details are taken from a private letter, dated Smyrna, July 9, 1845: "Smyrna is again in misery and ruin; a larger and more awful conflagration than the last commenced on the evening of the 3d instant, continued violently for twelve or fifteen hours, and upwards of two days in burning embers and side fires. Even up to yesterday, here and there magazines and some buildings were burning—some from being opened too soon, when the heated air burst into a flame. It began in the centre of the town, aided by a furious north wind, (which afterwards changed,) destroying every thing right and left, and for a circumference, I calculate, of at least a mile and a half. The town hall side of Frank street is consumed, and then right away to our exit out of town to Boujia. The English hospital was saved by a miracle, and thereby preserved that part of the town and the so-called Rue de Rose. The Austrian hospital is burnt. Close to it Borrell lives. He was saved, although the fire was burning on three sides of him. Then, backwards, all the Armenian quarters, except Purdie street, is destroyed. The fire skirted the Jew quarter, burning some hundred houses—and then spread to the Grand Vizier Kahn, and up to the bazaars. Shoemaker lane is all burnt, and round about St. George's, as in the former fire. The Dutch and Tuscan consulates were burnt; two or three large Kahns were destroyed. The Greek hospital, close to the Austrian hospital, was saved by a great exertion. It had three hundred invalids in it. Fourteen or fifteen large wine taverns and their depots, &c. are gone. At one time the fire so raged, that had not a change of wind taken place, it was thought all Smyrna must have been in ruins. Some fifty or sixty people may have lost their lives. The Armenians are completely ruined, and how business, with reference to all engagements, will get on I don't know, though not much merchandise has been lost—manufactures to £10,000; valonia perhaps as much. A fire in this country is dreadful. Many thousands are compelled to live out in the open air in the gardens, fed by charity, as they must be for some time, and the first day or so after the fire no bread was to be had."

IRELAND.—An affray occurred at Armagh on the 12th ultimo, in which a young man, named John Boyle, lost his life, and a protracted investigation had been held, from which it was decided that he was attacked and killed by a band of armed Orangemen. O'Connell, at a meeting of the Repeal Association on the 21st, announced his intention to retire to Derrynane, where he should employ himself in drawing out plans for carrying his proposed measures into effect. He declared his intention to prepare bills to be submitted to Parliament, on a variety of topics, of which the following are the most important:

1. An act to enable her most gracious Majesty to exercise without delay her undoubted prerogative to summon her Parliament of Ireland, with seven declaratory clauses.
2. An act to establish in perpetuity the perfect equality in the eyes of the law of persons of all Christian persuasions, and to prevent forever the existence in Ireland of any legal or temporal ascendancy, to contain five declaratory clauses.
3. An act to charge the estates of all absentees with an income tax of 20 per cent., a restriction defined to be non-residence in Ireland for six months in each year.
4. An act to entitle all tenants upon eviction to full compensation for all improvements heretofore made, or hereafter to be made, on the premises held by such tenants.
5. An act to take away from the landlords all powers of distress or ejectment for non-payment of rent, unless the land be held under lease for a term of at least 21 years.
6. An act to direct that such of the Crown estates in Ireland as are not required for the convenience of the public should be sold in small divisions, a right of pre-emption being given to the tenants in possession, the purchase money to be payable by instalments.

Mr. O'CONNELL acknowledged the receipt of £12 from New York, and read a letter accompanying the remittance, which, unadvisedly on certain expressions uttered by Mr. O'Connell on a late occasion, to the effect that if England rendered justice to Ireland, might calculate on the assistance of Irishmen in enabling her to "humble the eagle of America."

What he (Mr. O'Connell) said on the occasion referred to was, that if England did render justice, full and ample justice, to Ireland, she would be in such a position, through the co-operation of Irishmen, as to defy all the nations of civilized Europe, and would be even able to pull down the flag of America.

Such was the sentiment he uttered, and he believed such was the sentiment of Ireland also. It was in consequence of the blustering of Mr. Polk with regard to the Oregon territory, a blustering which had since ceased, that he had been drawn into the observations complained of. Mr. Polk evidently calculated on a diversion in his favor in Ireland, should a rupture take place between England and America. Having expressed the gratification he felt at the opportunity afforded him of explaining, he moved the insertion of the letter on the minutes, and the thanks of the Association to the writer.

Serious disturbances have occurred in the county of Cavan and other districts, and additional forces have been provided by the Government to maintain the peace.

ARRIVAL OF THE GREAT BRITAIN.

The *Great Britain* was telegraphed at 12 o'clock on Sunday, that it was a quarter past two before she arrived off Governor's Island Fort. The first indication of her approach was her salute to Fort Hamilton, which was heard, but barely so, by the spectators on the Battery. From this moment the utmost anxiety was betrayed by the masses to get the first glimpse of her, and when they did, it was expressed in vehement ejaculations of "There she is!" "La voila," "c'est elle," &c.

The first view was very indifferent; the state of the atmosphere being dark and hazy, and very unfavorable to show her vast outline in the distant perspective. Sailing up very slowly, she at last, steering in mid-channel, came off the Battery, where for the first time an impression was made worthy of her magnitude. All that has been said of her in foreign journals has not done her justice, and nothing but the evidence of the senses is adequate thereto. She is truly beautiful, and her aspect is so strikingly exhibited in contrast with that of the North Carolina, towards which vessel she directed her course, and turned as if on a pivot to steer her course up the North river, saluting the fort as she passed. At each of her masts she displayed a flag, and her decks seemed a miniature of the city of London. "There she is!" "She is beautiful!" "She is the cry of every hand, while the bustle and rush of the crowd in that direction as she passed between the Battery and Governor's Island was altogether impetuous, and betokening an anxious desire to have her in sight as long as possible. Her rate of sailing was slow, it being fully an hour before she came abreast of the Battery, and she was lost to view among the forest of masts in the East river.

Of course the crowd was immense, and yet it would have been still greater, were it not that expectation was dampened a little by the distant prospect, which had gone on for two or three days previously, and which only ended in disappointment, until at last she did come in all the pride of her glory. On returning from the animating spectacle our reporter saw thousands rushing down in hopes of being in time, but alas! they had to put it off until a more convenient season.

When the noble ship was first seen from Governor's, a cry of joy went up from all beholders. From the heights about Governor's she presented a grand and beautiful appearance. The shores from Governor's to Brooklyn were completely lined with persons eager to catch a glimpse of the new and wonderful vessel, and in the suburbs of Brooklyn were covered with men, women, and children. As soon as it was known that she had entered the harbor, hundreds were seen running for the water. All wanted to see the *Great Britain*, and all were well repaid by a view of the noble ship.

After rounding the battery on Bellow's Island, she stood up the East river, and, as she passed, she was hailed by the Fulton Ferry, where two guns were discharged; then she crossed over and ran along, closely hugging the wharves. This was not unexpected; it was thought she would keep close to the Long Island side, and then cross over. But she was kept close on this side, and was brought up with her bow to the end of the wharf, where a small castle above it, at exactly half-past three o'clock, half an hour after she rounded Bellow's Island. An attempt was made for upwards of an hour to bring her alongside the pier, but in vain, in consequence of the strong ebb tide, and the effort was given up until slack water. Her appearance at this point was most beautiful. The yards, decks, and rigging of every vessel in the neighborhood were manned and boyed by such numbers as never before were thought of; the tops of houses, and every window that could command even a bird's eye view were filled; the piles of timber in the different yards in the vicinity were covered with anxious spectators. The vessel was continually surrounded by fleets of boats of every description, containing men, women, and children; more than one steam packet loaded with passengers came out of their course to take a glance at this far-famed craft; some indeed were especially engaged for the purpose, and were crowded with ladies and children; the boatsmen, craving their handkerchiefs and the other cheering. All appeared to be gratified with the safe arrival of this most splendid vessel.—*Herald.*

MEMBER OF OREGON EMIGRANTS.—The *Bainbridge Eagle* (published in Chemung county, New York) has been favored with a letter from Mr. A. W. Russell, of Platte City, Missouri, stating that a letter had been received in that place from the Captain of the company who left there in May last for the Oregon Territory, giving information of the murder of two of the company by the Sioux Indians, on the upper Platte river. One of the unfortunate emigrants murdered was Mr. Aldis A. Robinson, of Toga county, New York.

A correspondent of the St. Louis Republican, Mr. J. A. Hubbard, who had in early youth (together with his brother) been bitten by a mad dog, states that both were cured by drinking a strong decoction made from the bark of the root of the black ash, which is a well-known cure for the bite of a rattlesnake, drinking a wine glass full three times a day for eight days. This is a very simple remedy, and should at least have a trial. He gives the following as the mode of preparing it: Take the root of the common aspen bark, generally called black ash; peel off the bark, and boil it in a strong decoction of this drug freely.

## THE OREGON QUESTION.

FROM THE NEW YORK JOURNAL OF COMMERCE.

The *Edinburgh Review* and the *London Foreign Quarterly*, for July, each contain an article on the Oregon question. The tone of the two is very dissimilar. The *Foreign Quarterly* claims the whole argument and the territory besides. It seems to suppose that the Oregon occupation bill, which passed the House of Representatives at the last session of Congress, is to come up for concurrence by the Senate next winter; whereas it was definitively acted upon (rejected) by the Senate at the last session, and could not be acted upon at the next session at any rate except as a new bill, requiring the action of both Houses, inasmuch as the Congress of last session (the 26th) has no longer any constitutional existence. "We venture to predict," says the *Foreign Quarterly*, "that it will be thrown out simply because it cannot be carried without a war with England; and there are three sound reasons why America cannot go to war—she has neither men, money, nor credit." And again it speaks of our being "overwhelmed with debts." If the National Government is meant, the amount of this overwhelming debt is about £3,000,000, or say the one hundred and twentieth part of the British debt. Even including the debts of all the States, America does not owe a twentieth part as much as England; certainly not an eighteenth part. And as to "men," we are inclined to think a few might be found in our population of 20,000,000. If the reviewer lives fifteen years longer he will have the pleasure of knowing that the population of the United States exceeds that of the United Kingdom. Again, the credit of the National Government, and of most of the States, (unfortunately there are a few exceptions,) is perfect. Its promises are better than gold, and, if drawing interest, very much better. Besides, if we were to get into a war with England, the large amount now paid by indebted States to English bond-holders could be invested in cold lead and steel, and transmitted in that shape to its destination. We can tell John there is no trouble on either of the grounds mentioned. We have a plenty of money, men, and credit; but we agree with him that they are not likely to be used in such a foolish way as that above indicated. "No; America will not go to war." Neither will England. She, too, is wise enough to avoid a collision. She knows that she can turn us to much better account by selling us broadcloths, &c. than by shooting us. She has spent near ten years of her life in attempting the latter, and has found it an unprofitable business. The article concludes as follows:

"The British Minister has solemnly announced that he is not only resolved but prepared to assert the rights of the British Crown in the Oregon Territory. This is not an idle threat; and it has been echoed back by the universal conviction of a country too well instructed in its own power, too confident in the integrity of its cause, and too well assured of the advantages of peace, to embark hastily in an expensive war. We have the means of vindicating our rights, and we will employ them, should it become necessary. The mere addition to our naval estimates this year amounts to 1,000,000 sterling—a sum nearly equal to the total naval estimates of the United States; and our squadron in the Pacific under Admiral Seymour is a sufficient pledge of the sincerity of our intentions in that quarter."

But we do not believe that America will submit the Oregon question to solution in the field of battle. She is not in a condition for such dangerous experiments; and, if she were, a dispassionate investigation of the case must finally satisfy her that the claim she sets up could be settled much more speedily, to her own honor and ultimate advantage, by peaceful arbitration. It is the interest of both countries to settle their claims amicably; but it is chiefly the interest of America, for the experience of all history concurs in this warning—that when a subject in litigation between two Powers is removed from the cabinet to the camp, it must be at the cost of the weaker party."

The writer in the *Edinburgh Review* claims little for England on the score of title to Oregon, and concedes little to us. He says there are only five sources of title, viz. discovery, settlement, treaty, prescription, and contiguity; and that under no one of them except the last has any civilized nation acquired any title to Oregon. The claim on the score of contiguity is now confined to the United States and England—Russia and Mexico having respectively quit-claimed. On this basis, England would be entitled, says the reviewer, "to the portion north of the 49th parallel, and America to the south." He adds: "This is, without doubt, the weakest of all titles; so weak, that when expressed in words it seems almost to disappear; for what can be less substantial than a claim to territory which is not yours, merely because it is bounded by that which is? Still it must be admitted to be a source of title, however slight, where there is no other." The article concludes as follows:

"The negotiation for partition is now resumed, and, we trust, with a fair prospect of success. It is much that the real worthlessness of the country has been established. All that any prudent Englishman or American can wish is, that the controversy should be speedily and honorably settled. A week's interruption of confidence—such, for instance, as followed the reception of Mr. Polk's inaugural speech—costs each party twenty times the value of the matter in dispute."

"The obvious course is to refer the whole question to arbitration. The decision of an arbitrator necessarily asserts the honor of each party; and in the present case there is nothing else to contend for. We have heard that America objects to arbitration, and that her objection is founded on her conviction that the right is on her side. But, as there are few disputes in which each party is not convinced that he is in the right, it follows that if such a conviction were a bar to arbitration, that mode of adjustment could scarcely ever take place. Assuming the honesty and intelligence of the proposed arbitrator, the only valid objection to arbitration is the conviction, not merely that we are in the right, but that the opposite party knows that we are in the right. If we believe this, we believe his claim to be fraudulent and venal; and we are justified, if the object in itself, or as affecting our honor, be adequate; in refusing to allow the question to be discussed. England would not allow her title to Quebec, or America her title to Rhode Island, to be the subject of an arbitration—not merely because each nation is convinced of the validity of her own title, but because each knows that its validity is known to the other. In the present case, America, with that ignorance of international law which is the glaring defect of American statesmen, may possibly be convinced that her claim to the whole of Oregon is valid, but she cannot believe that England knows it to be valid. She cannot deny that she honestly believes it to be matter of controversy; and if a fourth negotiation should fail, she is bound by friendship, by prudence, and by regard to the welfare of the whole civilized world, to allow it to be settled by arbitration."

"Our readers have perhaps a right to ask what in our opinion the decision of an honest arbitrator would be? We think that we have supplied premises from which it may be inferred. We have shown that no nation now possesses any title, perfect or imperfect, by discovery, by settlement, by treaty, or by prescription. We have shown, too, that no nation possesses a perfect title by contiguity; and we have shown that an imperfect title by contiguity to the portion which lies north of the forty-ninth parallel is vested in England, and to that part which lies south of that parallel in America. We think, therefore, that the parallel ought to be the basis of the boundary; but as, if prolonged indefinitely, it would cut off

the southern extremity of Vancouver's island, with little advantage to America and great injury, if it should ever occupy that island, to England, we think that it should cease to be the boundary when it reaches the coast, and that from thence the boundary should be the sea. This would give to the whole of Vancouver's island, which, if we are about enough to plant a colony in the northern Pacific, is the least objectionable seat. It possesses excellent ports, a tolerable climate, and some cultivable soil, an ascertained and defensible frontier, and the command of the important straits by which to the east and to the south it is separated from the continent. That its distance from Europe would render it a costly unprofitable encumbrance is true; but that objection applies with equal force to every part of Oregon."

The last paragraph is worthy of particular notice, as designating what the reviewer supposes would be a proper compromise of the conflicting claims, viz. the forty-ninth parallel of latitude to the Pacific Ocean, leaving to England the whole of Vancouver's island, which extends half a degree south of said latitude. This corresponds precisely with what was recently proposed by the *London Examiner*, and in which we expressed our willingness to concur. It conforms to the proposition repeatedly made by our commissioners in former negotiations, but declined by those of England. If there is any variation, it consists in this, that our commissioners may have designed to continue said parallel across Vancouver's island, thus leaving the southern extremity of it to the United States. Such a divided ownership would be scarcely desirable, even if practicable. Our firm conviction is, that if the present negotiation can be concluded on this basis, our Government will be guilty of a criminal neglect if they fail to accept so liberal a compromise. The senseless clamors of ignorant partisans who only know what they want, not what they can justly claim, are not to be heeded. If England recedes thus far from her former claims, it is as much as can be reasonably expected. Let us meet her in the same spirit. Now is the time to bring this last boundary question with England to a peaceful and honorable close.

## LATEST FROM TEXAS.

The steamer *Alabama*, which conveyed a portion of the United States troops to Texas, returned to New Orleans on the 2d instant, with dates from Galveston to